

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF PENRITH



YEAR 1939

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor R. IRVING.

Chairman of the Health Committee:

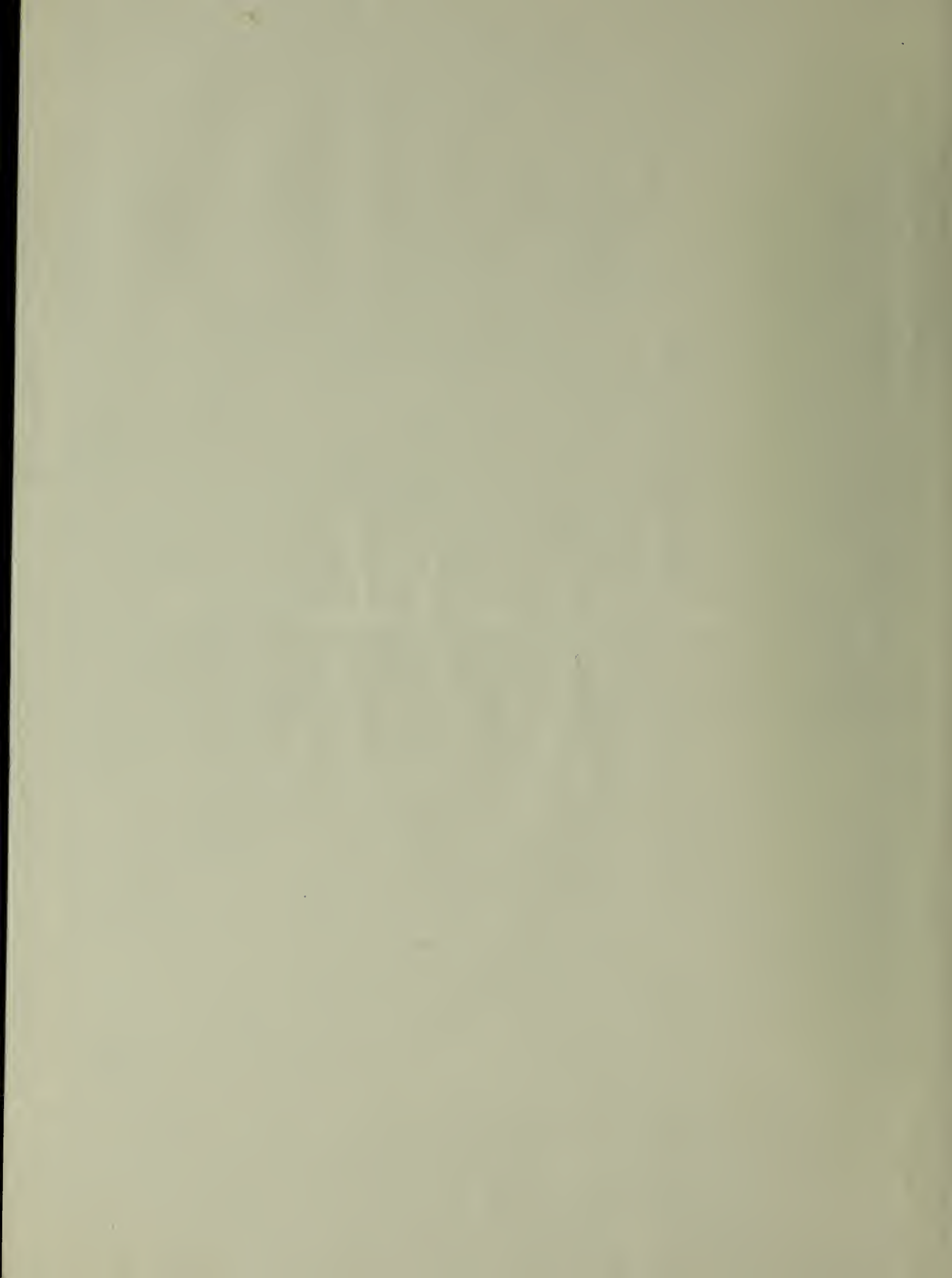
Councillor J. L. RICHARDSON.

Medical Officer of Health:

F. W. GAVIN, M.D., Ch.B.(Edin)., D.P.H.(Edin).

Clerk of the Council:

C. H. HUNTLEY, F.I.M.T.A., F.S.A.A., A.C.I.S.



Town Hall,
PENRITH.

7th December, 1940

To the Chairman and Councillors of the
Urban District of Penrith.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs Johnson and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report on the health of the town for the year 1939.

This report, which has been prepared in accordance with the Ministry of Health's circular 1961 of February, 1940, has been much curtailed owing to war conditions and the need for economy especially in the use of paper.

The opening of the new Public Abattoir in Dalemain Road was the most noteworthy event from the public health viewpoint during the year, and at the same time the old Auction Mart Slaughterhouses were finally closed down.

The vital statistics for the year which are pretty favourable are very similar to those for the year 1938, despite the dislocation of population by the Evacuation Scheme which took place on the outbreak of hostilities.

There has been a welcome decline in the mortality from Tuberculosis and also a reduction in the deaths from Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia; and while Scarlet Fever remained endemic in the area during the year, there was a diminution in the incidence of Diphtheria, and in this connection the work of immunization which was continued has become a matter of some national importance.

Measles and Whooping Cough were made generally notifiable from 1st November, 1939.

The Sewerage Scheme which was completed early in the year has proved to be entirely satisfactory.

A new Food and Drugs Act came into force on the 1st October.

The Joint Board for Penrith Urban, Keswick Urban and Penrith Rural Districts came into being on the 1st October, 1939 for the provision of isolation hospital accommodation in these districts.

The A.R.P. Casualty Services administered by the County Medical Officer of Health, involved much extra work, and thanks are due to the volunteers who are all part-time in this area.

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks for the courtesy and help extended to me by the Chairman of the Council, The Chairmen of the Sanitary and Housing Committees and Mr. C. H. Huntley, Clerk of the Council.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Chairman, Mrs Johnson and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

F. W. GAVIN.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of the District in acres.	.. .. .	7,586
Registrar-General's estimate of		
(a) resident population, mid 1939.	.. .. .	9,297
(b) Average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates.	.. .. .	9,672
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1939) according to Rate Books.	.. .. .	2,800
Rateable Value.	.. .. .	£62,836
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.	.. .. .	£252. 0. 8d.

The social conditions of the town are similar to those noted in previous reports.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The following figures have been kindly supplied by the Officer in Charge of the Penrith Labour Exchange.

<u>31/12/38</u>	<u>31st December, 1939</u>	<u>31st December, 1939</u>
Men. 323	Men 385	Women 51
Boys 6	Young men (18-20) 19	Young women (18-20) 20
Women 63	Boys (16-17) 5	Girls (16-17) 14
Girls 14	Boys (14-15) 4	Girls (14-15) <u>nil</u>
406	413	85
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Of the total unemployed at 31st December, 1939 there were 130 temporarily stopped from work.

The figures show that unemployment had increased somewhat at the end of the year as compared with the corresponding figures for the end of 1938.

There are no forms of employment carried on in the Urban District which have a detrimental effect on the health of the inhabitants.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

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	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births - Legitimate.	89	73	162
Illegitimate.	8	1	9
Birth Rate per 1,000 of population - 18.39			
Still Births - Legitimate.	4	5	9
Illegitimate.	-	-	nil
Rate per 1,000 (total live and still births) - 50.			
Deaths 	60	77	137
Death rate per 1,000 of population - 14.16			
Deaths from Puerperal causes - puerperal sepsis - 1			
Puerperal sepsis rate per 1,000 total (live and still)			
births - .. ,. 			5.55
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year:-			
All infants per 1,000 live births		46.78	
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births		46.78	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000			
illegitimate live births		nil	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			20
" " Measles (all ages)			nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)			nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			nil

SCARLET FEVER: As in the year 1938, thirty cases of Scarlet Fever were notified in 1939 and of these six were evacuees three of which were boys of the Royal Grammar School of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Cases were notified during every month of the year as in 1938, and while there has been no epidemic, infection has remained in the district in endemic form.

In my opinion the cause is to be ascribed to the "immune carrier", and in no case could milk or other foodstuffs be blamed.

DIPHTHERIA: Ten cases were notified during the year and no child who had been immunized contracted this infection. One child (aged 5 years) developed mild diphtheria during the course of immunizing injections and therefore before full immunity could develop.

The following are brief notes on the cases:-

- (1) F. aged 15 years, gave a history of diphtheria four years previously - a mild case; notified 9/1/1939.
- (2) M. aged 12 years; M. aged 10 years, M. aged 4 years. all brothers, notified 16/2/1939. Another brother aged 17 years notified 22/2/1939 and a sister aged 4 years notified 26/2/1939, the latter was probably a nasal carrier and the most likely source of infection in this family. None of these cases had been immunized.
- (3) F. aged 5 years had received 2 injections of T.A.F. one on 18/1/1939 and one on 15/2/1939, she was a mild case with the following clinical features:- tonsillitis, enlarged tonsils with exudate, no membrane tonsillar gland enlarged on the right side, temperature 99° Fahrenheit., notified 2/3/1939.
- (4) F. aged 16½ years apparently contracted infection while working at a Westmorland hotel, notified 6/5/39.
- (5) M. aged 10 years notified on 1/6/1939 is of considerable interest as he was suspected as a carrier during the epidemic in November, 1938. This boy attends Penrith National Boys School and immunization had been refused by the parents.

DIPHTHERIA (continued)

- (6) M. aged 5 years notified 26/12/1939 during the Christmas vacation. Immunization had been refused.

Conclusions. The records show that there was no school spread of diphtheria during the year 1939, and it is very interesting to recall that 50% of all cases notified were in one family.

The value of artificial immunization was also demonstrated, as case (3) above had not completed a course of immunizing injections and a period of time must elapse after these injections before full immunity has developed. There were no cases among evacuee children.

Artificial Immunity. The work of artificial immunization against diphtheria was continued during 1939 and the figures are as follows:-

DIPHTHERIA - PREVENTIVE INOCULATION.

Number of Children attending Schools in the District who have received a 3rd injection of T.A.F. during 1939:-

<u>Schools.</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
Penrith Council Infants.	109
" " Girls.	22
" " Boys.	16
" National Boys.	17
" " Girls.	6
" " Infants.	26
" Robinson's Infants.	20
" Preparatory Grammar School.	3
" Queen Elizabeth Grammar School.	2
" St. Catherine's R.C. School.	24
Pre-School age children.	<u>4</u>
Total.	<u>249</u>

PNEUMONIA - Primary or Influenzal. Twenty-three cases were notified and there were six deaths, four of these deaths occurred in February - the other two in April.

Their ages were 65 yrs., 46 yrs., 62 yrs., 40 yrs., 51 yrs. and 8 yrs. In this connection very severe weather conditions were experienced during January and February.

MEASLES and WHOOPING COUGH REGULATIONS, 1939. On 1st November 1939 these diseases became compulsorily notifiable generally and four cases of Whooping Cough were notified in November. Measles became epidemic in the town during December when there were 24 cases notified.

CHICKEN POX. This disease is not notifiable locally, and a considerable epidemic broke out in February. During a school medical inspection at the Penrith Council Infants' School on 20th February I personally excluded eleven cases among children attending the school.

The disease persisted for three months and then died out.

M I L K S U P P L Y

ANALYSIS OF MILK SAMPLES TAKEN DURING 1939.

<u>Grade of Milk.</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Bad</u>	<u>Total</u>
T.T.	2	-	3	5
Ungraded.	6	7	5	18
Accredited.	2	-	1	3

The above samples were taken during the period April - December, 1939.

MILK IN SCHOOLS.

Tuberculin Tested (Certified) Milk is supplied to all the Elementary Schools in the town and also to the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, under the 'Milk in Schools' scheme of the Milk Marketing Board. This supply continues to be satisfactory.

W A T E R.

The following is the bacteriological and chemical analysis of a sample of water taken from a domestic supply in Penrith on the 27th November, 1939:-

BACTERIOLOGY.

<u>Agar plate count.</u>	<u>0.1 ml. colonies</u>	<u>1 ml. colonies</u>	<u>10 ml. colonies</u>
At 22° C.	5	69	750
At 37° C.	nil	4	59

Probable number of coli-aerogenes present in 100 ml. One and is faecal in origin, i.e., Methyl red - positive; Voges Proskauer - negative.

CHEMISTRY.

Appearance in a 2 ft. tube - Clear and colourless.

p.H. - 7.0

					Parts per <u>100,000</u>
Free and saline ammonia.	..	..	..	..	0.0000
Albuminoid ammonia.	..	..	..	..	0.0068
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 15 mins. at 27° C.			..	..	0.008
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27° C.	..	..	..	..	0.032
Total solids ..	..	..	..	..	2.9
Suspended matter ..	..	..	..	..	0.0
Hardness - Total.	..	..	..	..	1.9
Hardness - Permanent	..	..	..	..	1.9
Hardness - Temporary	..	..	..	..	0.0
Chlorine present as chlorides.	..	..	..	..	0.35
Heavy metals ..	..	..	..	..	0.00

Opinion:- This is a pure and wholesome water. It is very soft and suitable for all domestic uses.

(Signed) LESLIE H. EASSON.

Chemist.

T U B E R C U L O S I S

No action has been necessary in respect to Tuberculosis among persons employed in the milk trade or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1939.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1								
1-5								
5-15								
15-25		1				1		
25-35	2		1			1		
35-45		1	1		1		1	
45-55	1							
55-65	1				1			
65 and upwards				1				
TOTALS.	4	2	2	1	2	2	1	-

One of the 9 cases notified had attended a specialist at Carlisle and had been diagnosed as mediastinal neoplasm and some six weeks after his death laboratory findings showed that pleural effusion was tuberculous and he was then notified as such. Of the other 4 deaths one died in a sanatorium and one case of generalised miliary tuberculosis died at the Penrith Cottage Hospital.

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at 31st December 1939 was:-

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary.	14	18	32
Non-Pulmonary.	6	6	12

The notification of cases occurring within the area is efficient and it will be noted with satisfaction that Death Rate for 1939 at 0.5 was lower than the corresponding rates for 1938 at 0.7, and for 1937 at 0.9. It must be remembered however that 1939 was not a "war year" and that housing conditions had materially improved in Penrith during recent years.

COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND.

VITAL STATISTICS - YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1939.

	Birth Rate.	Crude Death Rate.	Adjusted Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
Administrative County of Cumberland.	15.9	13.4	12.9	56
Urban Districts of Cumberland (including Boroughs of Workington and Whitehaven).	16.6	13.7	13.8	56
Rural Districts of Cumberland.	15.3	13.2	12.0	55
Penrith Urban District.	18.39	14.16	12.31	46.78
England and Wales.	15.0	12.1	-	50

CARCASES EXAMINED BY THE VETERINARY SURGEON.

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AUCTION MART SLAUGHTERHOUSES and PUBLIC ABATTOIR.

	<u>Beasts</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total</u>
1st quarter.	210	821	-	267	1,298
2nd quarter.	204	1,113	42	146	1,505
3rd quarter.	226	1,305	29	147	1,707
4th quarter.	231	882	4	265	1,382
Yearly total.	<u>871</u>	<u>4,121</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>825</u>	<u>5,892</u>

CO-OPERATIVE SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

	<u>Beasts</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total</u>
1st quarter.	154	460	-	60	674
2nd quarter.	140	639	4	37	820
3rd quarter.	162	802	1	34	999
4th quarter.	158	488	2	90	738
	<u>614</u>	<u>2,389</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>221</u>	<u>3,231</u>

FRENCHFIELD SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

	<u>Beasts</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total</u>
1st quarter.	10	211	3	1	225
2nd quarter.	3	3	-	1	7
3rd quarter.	6	527	3	-	536
4th quarter.	7	5,043	-	-	5,050
	<u>26</u>	<u>5,784</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5,818</u>

PENRITH'S MUNICIPAL SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

This public abattoir was opened on the 26th August 1939 and the Auction Mart Slaughterhouses were closed down at that time.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Beasts	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed.		Figures not known.			
Number inspected.	1,485	26	88	12,294	1,048
All diseases except Tuberculosis:-					
Whole carcasses condemned.	2	2	1	13	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	0.13%	7.69%	1.13%	0.10%	0.19%
Tuberculosis only:-					
Whole carcasses condemned.	9	8	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	0.60%	30%	Nil	Nil	Nil

Total Visits paid by Veterinary Officer
to Slaughterhouses - 785.

CAUSES OF DEATHS AS GIVEN BY THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Influenza	2	3	5
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ..	2	2	4
Other Tuberculosis	1	-	1
S.P.L. Tubes Dorsalis etc.	1	-	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	5	15	20
Diabetes	2	-	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	2	6	8
Heart Disease	20	24	44
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	4	6
Bronchitis	2	1	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	-	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	-	1	1
Peptic Ulcer	1	-	1
Other Digestive Diseases	1	3	4
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	-	1
Puerperal sepsis	-	1	1
Congenital debility, prematurity, malformations etc.	2	3	5
Senility	3	7	10
Suicide	-	1	1
Other Violence	3	-	3
Other Defined Diseases	6	6	12
Totals	60	77	137

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diseases.	AGES.										Total	Admitted to Isolation Hospital	Deaths			
	-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-				45-	65-	
Smallpox.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30	27	..
Scarlet Fever.	..	..	2	1	3	13	7	3	..	1	..	..	..	10	10	..
Diphtheria.	..	..	..	..	2	2	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever (incl. Paratyphoid).	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Primary Pneumonia.	2	..	..	1	..	6	1	..	1	3	6	3	23	4	1	6
Erysipelas.	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	4	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Cerebro-spinal Fever.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
÷ Measles.	..	..	..	1	1	18	4	..	..	..	..	..	24	..	..	..
+ Whooping Cough.	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..
													97	38	6	

* Notifiable from November, 1939.

